Newspapers/Periodicals in Hindi

3058. SHRI SHYAM LAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any arrangement for providing newspapers and magazines in Official Language, Hindi to the passengers in the flights of Indian Airlines and Air India as the same are being provided to passengers in English language;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government will make arrangement to provide newspapers and magazines in Official Language; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Pension Scheme for employees of IA

3059. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved Self-contributory Superannuation Pension Scheme for employees of Indian Airlines;

(b) the total amount deducted from the employees towards contribution in this scheme, so far, month-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether all the retired employees of Indian Airlines, who are eligible for pension, were given the benefit of the scheme;

(d) whether dependents of the deceased serving employees are covered for pension under this scheme;

(e) if so, the details of dependents who have been given pension so far, region-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons for non-inclusion of dependents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) .Yes, Sir. A self contributory Superannuation pension scheme for employees of Indian Airlines retiring on or after 1st April, 1994 was approved by the Government in May, 1997 and Commissioner of Income Tax in December, 1997.

(b) The Indian Airlines employees self-contributory Superannuation pension scheme provides for employees monthly contribution of 1% to 5% of their salaries. Details of year-wise contribution deducted from the employees are as under:—

Year	Rs. In Crores
1998-99	20.17
1999-2000	22.20
2000-2001	29.18

(c) The Scheme is managed through a Trust, which purchases annuities from LIC for eligible retirees opting for the annuity. The annuities are purchased in phases subject to availability of fund generated from the contribution of employees. So far, the eligible employees retired between April, 1994 and January, 2000 and who opted for pension/annuity have been given the benefit.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) there are 22 cases of claims received from the dependents of the deceased employees. These cases would be given priority in purchase of annuity subject to availability of funds with the trust and fulfilment of other necessary conditions.

New flights from Bangalore

3060. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air passenger traffic has steadily increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are planning to start new flights from Bangalore to various destinations; and